ADDENDUM TO FACT SHEET MODIFICATION
OF STATE WASTE DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR
NATURE'S PATH FOODS, USA, INC.
(Permit No. ST-7416)

This is an addendum to the fact sheet accompanying State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST-7416. The addendum covers a proposed modification to State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST-7416. State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST-7416 authorizes discharge of wastewater from the Nature's Path Foods, USA, Inc., cereal plant in Blaine to the City of Blaine POTW. Since early 2005, Nature's Path Foods, USA, Inc., has been hauling wastewater from its Blaine plant and discharging it to the City of Bellingham POTW under temporary State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST-7447.

Nature's Path Foods, USA, Inc., has requested that State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST-7416 be modified to authorize discharge of wastewater from cleaning cereal plant equipment, to the City of Bellingham sanitary sewer system. The discharge to the City of Bellingham POTW will enable long-term authorization for the discharge of cereal plant wastewater to a treatment plant which has sufficient capacity to treat the loading of biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids from the cereal plant. The existing permit (ST-7416) authorizes discharge of cereal plant wastewater to the City of Blaine POTW, which is close to being overloaded.

The Department issued a letter of exemption, followed by a temporary permit (ST-7447) to Nature's Path Foods, USA, Inc., at a time when it was anticipated that the discharge to the City of Bellingham would be temporary in nature. As Nature's Path Foods, USA, Inc., has decided to make discharge to the City of Bellingham a long-term means of wastewater disposal, the Department proposes to modify permit number ST-7416 to authorize the discharge of up to 8200 gallons per day with a maximum BOD_5 loading of 500 pounds per day, and a maximum TSS loading of 340 pounds per day to the City of Bellingham POTW. The proposed pH limitation is not less than 5.5, and not greater than 11.0. The City of Bellingham has reviewed these limitations and has indicated in its letter of September 26, 2005, that the proposed discharge to their POTW is acceptable.

Additional changes were made to language in the permit to clarify that certain treatment bypass provisions and compliance schedule provisions are only applicable to discharges to the City of Blaine POTW.

In addition, changes were made to table footnotes to make the pH limitation language in the footnotes consistent with the pH limitations appearing in the tables.

The proposed modification includes authorization of a new discharge point. Therefore, the proposed modification is considered to be a major modification, and is subject to public notice requirements associated with major modifications. Once the modification is in effect, the single permit number ST-7416 will contain authorizations to discharge to both the City of Blaine POTW and the City of Bellingham POTW. The Department then intends to cancel permit number ST-7447.

The Permittee responded to the Public Notice of Draft permit in a letter dated December 14, 2005. The following are the comments and the Department's responses.

Permittee Comment: Section (S4) *Operations and Maintenance* appears to require that Nature's Path must operate its pretreatment system at all times for discharges to the City of Bellingham.

Department's Response: The Department changed the language of the section to clarify that the requirement to operate the pretreatment system at all times is applicable only to discharges to the City of Blaine POTW. The pretreatment system need only be operated for discharges to the City of Bellingham POTW in those cases in which operation of the pretreatment system is required to achieve compliance with discharge limitations applicable to discharges to the City of Bellingham POTW.

The Department also added a statement to S4.B. *Bypass Procedures* to the effect that nothing in the permit is to be interpreted as requiring the Permittee to operate pretreatment systems for discharges to the City of Bellingham POTW, if the operation of the pretreatment system is not required to achieve compliance with limitations applicable to the City of Bellingham POTW.

Permittee Comment: The Compliance Schedule requires that the Permittee operate its pretreatment plant after August 1, 2003. This could be interpreted as requiring the Permittee to operate the pretreatment system at all times for discharges to the City of Bellingham.

Department's Response: At the time the Department placed the compliance schedule in the permit, the Permittee was only discharging to the overloaded City of Blaine POTW. The Department retained the compliance schedule, but added language that makes it clear that, for discharges to the City of Bellingham POTW, the Permittee is only required to operate its pretreatment system to achieve compliance with discharge limitations applicable to discharges to the City of Bellingham POTW.

Permittee Comment: The Permittee requested that multiplying the number of truck loads hauled per day by the capacity of each truck, be allowed as a flow measurement method.

Department's Response: The Department made changes in footnote "f" of the table in S1.C, as well as Part S2.C (*Flow Measurement*) to authorize the requested method of flow measurement.

Permittee Comment: The Permittee noted that, as no COD monitoring is required for discharges to the City of Bellingham POTW, the requirement to submit COD monitoring results to the City, should not be applicable to discharges to the City of Bellingham POTW.

Department's Response: The Department added language to Section S3.A, making it clear that the requirement to submit COD monitoring results to the City is only applicable to discharges to the City of Blaine POTW. The Department also added language requiring that the Permittee submit discharge monitoring reports and attachments only to the specific city with the POTW receiving the discharge.